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## Mine Assessment Work.

As the time is here when the annual assessment work on mining claims must be completed, the following discussions of the statutes and court decisions bearing upon annual labor and re-location, by R. S. Morrison's Mining Rights will be of unusual interest:

In Mining Science of November 2, we summarized the questions likely to arise on the performance of an annual labor, but did not reach the matter of resumption of labor, which is an important sub-factor of the annual labor law.

The act of congress, after demanding from the owners 100\$ worth of labor or improvements each year, and adding that on their failure to do or perform the claim shall be open to re-location, says:

"Provided, that the original locators, their heirs, assigns or legal representatives, have not resumed work upon the claim after failure and before such location," the word "location" meaning a relocation of the claim by a third party.

This provision, by a sort of friendly conclusion, allows the owner to do no labor during the current year until perhaps the last day of the year, when he does the work on the claim and is on hand on the morning of the first of January to perform the labor for the next year. The result is that by careful watching the work for the second year protects for that year and there is nothing lost, although the former has been an entirely idle or almost an entirely idle year.

There is no express statute allowing the partial labor of one year to be aided by any part of the labor of the next year. If a party does 50\$ worth of labor in December, 1909 and 50\$ in January, 1910, has he performed the labor for 1909 or for 1910, or for neither year? It is certain that he has performed it for both years.

The word "resumed" is used in the above cited section. That word implied a return to something already begun. Worcester defines "resume": "To begin again after interruption." It seems, therefore, obvious that the resumption if the taking up of the labor for the former year and the unperformed work for 1909 is made good by the work under the resumption in 1910. Nor would it make any difference during what part of 1909 the fraction of work for that year had been done.

If, however, having done, little or no work in 1909, the owner having begun work in 1910 before any stranger has attempted a relocation, he may perform the full 100\$ worth of work during the latter year and apply it all for 1910. This seems an evasion of the law, and under this doctrine a party as already observed can escape entirely all labor under each alternate year. It is, nevertheless, true, and we know of no case which holds to the contrary.

We here digress to observe that the actual results in the way of development produced, or other benefit to the mine by the performance of annual labor, is extremely small, it seldom happens that 10 feet, more or less, of sinking or drifting will disclose ore of value not previously known to exist. A portion of the work almost always consists in cleaning out rubbish which has fallen in or repairing old timber. The work is done, as it is always done, where done in the performance of a perfunctory duty from which no returns are expected. If the work already done is sufficient to allow a patent to issue, it is always more economical in the long run to apply for patent and so put an end to what may be called the payment of an annual bonus for the privilege of holding down a fraction of the public domain.

The first day of the following calendar year is everywhere a legal holiday, and sometimes also a Sunday. If a third party is first on the ground and has stuck up notice or stuck a pick in the ground, such stranger or third party is, nevertheless, in position to perfect a good location and kill the old title. The fact of Sunday or legal holidays does not prevent a valid entry by the stranger. But if on the last

day of the year the original owner was on the ground, with the bona fide intention of resuming work, he has until the usual hour of beginning work on January 2 to begin work, or if the first of January is a Sunday, and the legal holiday, therefore, postponed until the usual hour to begin work on the closing of the year is a condition precedent to his right to resume at all as against a stranger who has begun to make the relocation.

The ground becomes open to relocation one minute after midnight December 31, and a valid relocation may be begun at that hour; provided, always that the full amount of work has not been performed or the original owner is not on the ground at the close of the year to protect his rights under what is known as the resumption proviso of R. S. Sec. 2324.

But when the owner elects to resume work he can not trifle nor delay. He is working on borrowed time and must proceed with reasonable diligence to complete what was lacking on his work for the former year, or to do the full amount for the second year. All the recent cases maintain the statements of this paragraph and in the resumes in January, does a few feet of work (not enough to comply with the law) and takes a vacation, there is no doubt that an intervening bona fide locator would oppose the original title.

When the resumer elects to do only the balance needed to complete the shortage of the previous year it keeps good his title only by the end of the year of the resumption and the claim is open to forfeiture on the next first day of January.

## Montana Smelting Company to Spend Big Sum

A Spokane, Wash., dispatch says:—Two million dollars will be expended by the Montana Smelting company in the construction of a smelter, a railroad from Libby, Mont., to the Snowshoe mine and in the improvement and development of the property, according to Ernest A. Wilson, consulting engineer for the corporation, recently organized, which has taken over the holdings of the Pacific Coast Smelting-Refining Mining company.

The Snowshoe values are in lead, silver and gold, and Mr. Wilson expresses himself highly pleased with developments at the property, which he has been operating about nine months.

Much development work also is in progress in the Coeur d'Alene district. Robert Scheffels, president of the Jack Waite Mining company, announced in Spokane, following a conference with his directors, that a lower tunnel will be driven through the first ore body. The company is installing an 80-horse power gasoline engine, air compressor and other apparatus, after which a concentrator will be erected. The company has 25,000\$ worth of ore on the dump. Forty men are at work.

Workmen are erecting a 150-ton concentrator and installing a 100-horse power gasoline engine at the Black Horse mine. The Bear Top Mining company also is installing a 60-horse power gasoline engine and additional machinery for air compression. Two hundred and fifty tons of ore a month is now being mined by the company and the capacity will be largely increased by the improvements.

Jurors in the district court at Wallace, Ida., after 16 hour's deliberation, has sustained the claim of the Pittsburgh Lead Mining company to apex rights, refusing to grant damages to the owners of the Monarch claim, though, by common admission, ore valued at 130,000\$ was taken from the property.

The Success Mining company, owning and operating a mine of that name near Wallace, Ida., announces a dividend of 1 and one half cents a share, or 15,000\$, payable the latter part of December, making a total of 75,000\$ for 1911. President Samuels says the monthly dividend will be 10,000\$ in 1912. Prior to the financial flurry in 1907 the company paid four dividends, aggregating 60,000\$. The mine is producing on a large scale and incidental

to ore extraction, new shoots have been opened up. Development is also in progress below the main tunnel level, where a winze is down 80 feet in a big shoot of solid zinc ore. Recent shipments from the mine averaged 52 per cent in zinc.

E. P. Spalding of Spokane, general manager of the Coeur d'Alene North Fork Mining & Smelting company, announced on returning from an inspection of the property that the Monarch mine, near Murray, Ida., has been proved to contain two great ore shoots in parallel veins on the 1,400-foot level.

One occurs in the original Monarch vein and has been developed all the way from the surface. The other is thought to be a blind ledge above the 1,000-foot level. These disclosures are the result of development work for the purpose of clearing several geological problems. The monthly shipments averaged 600 tons and the concentrates run 65 per cent in lead and 10 ounces of silver, the net value being 36\$ a ton.

## Inspiration Doing Preliminary Work

The experimental mill of the Inspiration Copper company is running steadily under the supervision of J. M. Callow, consulting metallurgist to the company. Tests are being made to determine the best method of concentrating the Inspiration ore and several different makes of crushing and concentrating machinery are being tried out.

Previous tests have shown that a recovery of 75 per cent is possible on ore averaging 1.95 per cent copper or 39 pounds of copper to the ton and this figure may be exceeded.

At the site of the proposed storage dam and pumping station on Pinal creek near Wheatfields, 16 miles from the mine, a force of men has been at work for several weeks digging test-pits to determine the character and depth below surface of the bed rock, preparatory to the construction of the dam. This work is now completed and has demonstrated bed-rock to lie about 12 feet below the surface and to consist of dacite, a volcanic formation of a character that will insure a good foundation for the proposed dam.

The preliminary surveys at this point, which have been under way for several months are now virtually completed and a telephone line is being built from Wheatfields to the mine.

A new temporary warehouse is being erected near the portal of the main tunnel and excavation work is being done for a large steel warehouse nearby.

The gravel from the gulch near the portal of this tunnel is being tested as to its suitability for the making of concrete, to be used in vast work of construction that has been outlined.

The time for beginning this work is yet indefinite, as a merger with Live Oak, negotiations for which are now pending, may cause a considerable change in the present plans, but it is very probable that construction will begin early in the coming year.—Globe Silver-Belt.

## Moisture In Ore

Every once in a while a report of a company giving its production for a given period in tons, dry weight, recalls to mind the rather unique feature of mining that all mining men would like to eliminate, but cannot, and that is the moisture in ore shipped to market. All ores carry a varying amount of water, says the Salt Lake Tribune, the transportation of which must be paid for, but which always is deducted from the shipment by the smelters. Moisture, therefore, is waste, an expense which is absolutely dead loss, and there is no way to get around it.

An important ore producer who has been shipping all kinds of ore during his many years' connection with the mining game asserts that all the ore shipped by the mines of the State of Utah will average 5 and one-half per cent moisture, some ores carrying from 10 to 15 per cent or more. But taking his estimate as the average, 5 and one-half per cent, for the sake of illustration, it is merely a matter of

calculation to show that the producers pay out hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for freight on moisture alone.

The annual ore production of Utah for some time past has been in excess of 5,000,000 tons, and the 1911 output will undoubtedly exceed 5,200,000 tons. Of this tonnage close to 300,000 tons were nothing but water, the freight on which from mine to smelter ranged anywhere from 50 cents to 5.50\$ per ton. Here is a very important item which might be materially reduced were the government to establish a metallurgical station in Utah, with experts in charge, to devise ways and means of benefiting the mining industry.

## Courtland Is Still Mining

Yesterday W. J. Young, president of the Great Western Mining company, pioneer producers of the Courtland district, was in the city accompanied by his mining superintendent, W. J. McBride. They came to Douglas in an automobile and went on from here to Bisbee in the afternoon, says the International.

Mr. Young stated that the Great Western was now producing at the rate of eight to ten cars per week, about what it had been doing during the entire year. This ore is shipped to the smelter at El Paso.

Mr. Young and his brother acquired the Great Western property about twelve years ago and began development work on it. While the work was carried on continually it never attracted any particular attention until three years ago, during the campaign of 1908. Then some of the candidates who visited the camp and who were mining men of experience were attracted to the wonderful showing that had been made.

Returning to Douglas W. M. Adamson, who was a candidate for supervisor, told the Daily International that he had seen at Courtland one of the best showings for copper that he had ever encountered in Arizona for the amount of work that had been done. The publication of this statement coming from Mr. Adamson at once attracted attention and it was not long until there was a rush for Courtland by prospectors. The Copper Queen and the C. & A. at once sent experts into the district and very soon it was announced that both had secured bonds on property there and they hurried forces and machinery there for starting development work.

Both the Southern Pacific and the El Paso & Southwestern railroads were attracted by the boom that was raging in the Courtland district and soon both companies were rushing lines to the new district, each hurrying to reach the new supposed Eldorado first and secure advantage. The Southwestern beat the Southern Pacific to it and built their lines to all the important shafts in the district. Then the Southern Pacific diverted their line intended to reach the mines at Courtland and swung off to the south and continued on to Gleeson, where they already had a considerable tonnage, which was threatened by the Southwestern, which also had a survey of their line on to Gleeson from Courtland.

The Courtland boom was on in real earnest. No less than half a dozen different townsites companies were formed with plats of ground of varying sizes, but the Great Western had the most advantageous townsites and secured the favor of the railroad company in the location of the depot. Pretty soon a sale of lots in the Courtland townsites was advertised by E. R. Pirtle, of this city, who had secured the agency for handling the townsites. As the day named for the first sale of lots approached the Courtland fever reached a higher temperature and all the loose money in Bisbee and Douglas was appropriated for a speculation in the new town in the midst of a district that had been pronounced to have a future equalling that of the great Warren district at Bisbee or that in Mexico at Cananea. Finally when the afternoon preceding the sale for lots arrived it was found that those who

desired to have first choice were on the ground and during the nights those desiring lots continued to arrive until hundreds stood in line when the office door was opened early in the morning and the fortunate first in line were admitted to make their choice.

The sale of lots was followed by a rush of material and mechanics to the new town and there was music of the saw and hammer for weeks as the new buildings were hurried to completion.

But Courtland was deemed to be at least a temporary disappointment. Both the Copper Queen and the C. & A. failed to make the final payments on their options and both discontinued all work more than a year ago. However, there are many acquainted with the Courtland district that have never lost faith in its future and who believe that the district will yet become one of the important producers of the southwest.—Bisbee Daily Review.

## Arizona Copper May Again Lead The World

Since 1906, with the exception of the year 1909, Arizona territory produced more copper than any of the other copper producing states. Last year Arizona's copper output reached 300,000,000 pounds, exceeding Montana by about 13,500,000 pounds. In 1909 Montana exceeded Arizona by 23,747,993, when the former state produced nearly 315,000,000 pounds. Arizona has surpassed Michigan, the third greatest copper-producing state, every year since 1904. From the present outlook Arizona will probably continue to hold first place in copper production and with greatly increased output in the immediate future, as nowhere are greater preparations for increasing copper production being made than in the new state.

Within the last few years, the expenditure for mill and smelter construction, now in progress or planned, aggregate some 20,000,000\$. Most of these plants have not yet been completed, but will be soon. These plants include the Copper Queen 500,000\$ roasting and reverberatory plant at Douglas, nearly completed; and the Calumet & Arizona smelter, also now building at Douglas, which will cost 2,000,000\$. The Shattuck-Arizona company is planning to build a smelter at Douglas or Bisbee to cost over 1,000,000\$. The United Verde is planning to build a new smelting plant near Jerome at a cost of 2,500,000\$. The Arizona Copper company is planning to erect a 1,500,000\$ smelting plant at Clifton. At Hayden the American Smelting & Refining company is erecting a smelting plant that, it is stated, will cost over 1,000,000\$.

The big 3,000,000\$ mill of the Miami Copper company near Globe is now producing copper concentrates, and in the same camp the Inspiration Copper company is to build a mill to cost fully as much.

When all these plants are in full operation there will be a notable increase in the state's copper output.—Mining World.

## Work Soon To Commence At Yarnell.

Extensive operations are to be commenced shortly on the old Yarnell mine, in Southern Yavapai county, which recently passed into the hands of a Philadelphia syndicate. The force which has been at the mine for some weeks has been augmented by the addition of several men and right after the first of the year an effective force will be employed. For the present the only work that is being done is to clean out the old workings and to repair the pipe line which brings water from a spring some five miles distant. When operations are commenced in earnest, both sinking and tunneling will be in order. Superintendent Rex W. Donlap has been in Phoenix several days but he will leave tonight for Kansas City to spend the holidays. Immediately upon his return he will go out to the Yarnell and direct development.—Democrat.